



[Main page](#)
[Contents](#)
[Current events](#)
[Random article](#)
[About Wikipedia](#)
[Contact us](#)
[Donate](#)

[Contribute](#)

[Help](#)
[Learn to edit](#)
[Community portal](#)
[Recent changes](#)
[Upload file](#)

[Tools](#)

[What links here](#)
[Related changes](#)
[Special pages](#)
[Permanent link](#)
[Page information](#)
[Cite this page](#)
[Wikidata item](#)

[Print/export](#)

[Download as PDF](#)
[Printable version](#)

[Languages](#) 
 [Add links](#)

Article [Talk](#)

Read

[Edit source](#)

[View history](#)



Tracy Velazquez

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Tracy Velazquez was the Vice Chair of the [Montana Democratic Party](#) and directed the Justice Policy Institute in [Washington D.C.](#) until February 2013.

Velazquez has run for public office three times. She first ran for state legislature in 2000 against Republican incumbent **Bob Davies**. In 2004, she challenged Montana Congressman [Dennis Rehberg](#) for the state's lone seat in the [U.S. House of Representatives](#). In 2006, she again ran for the state legislature, this time losing a contested Democratic primary to Mike Phillips.

She was elected Vice Chair of the [Montana Democratic Party](#) in 2005.

Velazquez also owns [Commonweal Consulting](#), which provides capacity building services to [non-profit](#) agencies and [public health policy consulting](#) to NGOs and local governments. Notably, Velazquez assisted the town of [Libby, Montana](#) in its fight for [healthcare](#) for residents sickened by [asbestos](#) from the local [W.R. Grace](#) mine.

Velazquez is considered a liberal Democrat, and has from time to time taken positions outside of the party mainstream. For example, in late 2005, she received broad national attention by organizing a group to recommend paying for [Hurricane Katrina](#) relief by reducing [pork barrel](#) spending, asking the Bozeman [city council](#) to return federal earmarked money for a parking garage. While her actions were criticized by Democratic Senator [Max Baucus](#), as well as Republicans Rehberg and then-Senator [Conrad Burns](#). She was also hailed as a founder of a movement to reduce wasteful spending in Washington.

Born in 1964 in Connecticut, Velazquez has a bachelor's degree from [Harvard University](#) and a Masters in Public Administration from [Montana State University](#). She has three children and is married to Dennis Alexander.

External links

[[edit source](#)]

- [Montana Democratic Party](#) 

Categories: [1964 births](#) | [Living people](#) | [People from Connecticut](#) | [Harvard University alumni](#) | [Montana State University alumni](#) | [Politicians from Bozeman, Montana](#) | [Montana Democrats](#) | [Women in Montana politics](#)

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